



Teaching *for*
TRANSFORMATION

Seeing [Power] Differently 6th Grade Social Studies

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Deep Hope:

**My deep hope is for students to
understand God's story,
see their identity as peculiar people, and
join together in the work of restoring God's Kingdom.**





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Essential Learning Targets:

- 🎯 I can identify how Roman society and Roman leaders used their positions of power to influence society.
- 🎯 I can identify how power is used in our culture today, including the competing stories of our world.
- 🎯 I can see [Power] differently, understanding its place in God's story and write a letter of encouragement to a peculiar person who is using power well.



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Curricular Outcomes:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.3

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4





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Habit(s) of Learning:

Gracious Communicating: Students wrote encouraging letters to people that have used their power well.





See God's Story:

Creation	Fall	Redemption	Restoration
<p>What is God's original design and purpose for how power is used by humans?</p> <p>Jesus shows us the way, embodying how power was intended to be used.</p> <p>He had ALL the power, but used it to empower and love others.</p>	<p>What is the effect of sin on power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Power is hoarded. Not shared-Power is self-serving. "What can other people do for me?"-Power is kept through fear or the fear of powerlessness motivates people to stay in power-Power is used to control and keep control.	<p>Christ, who has redeemed all things, has begun the work of restoration.</p> <p>Jesus invites us to write a new story about power--to see <i>POWER differently</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Power is limitless and expands when shared with others-People in positions of power empathize with others.-Power seeks to serve rather than be served	<p>God calls us to <u>join Him</u> as His redemptive people, His agents of restoration.</p> <p>Students identify leaders in our society that use their positions of power and influence in ways that honor Jesus and reflect his desires for how power is to be used.</p> <p>Our letters will serve to acknowledge and encourage positive leaders in our lives.</p>



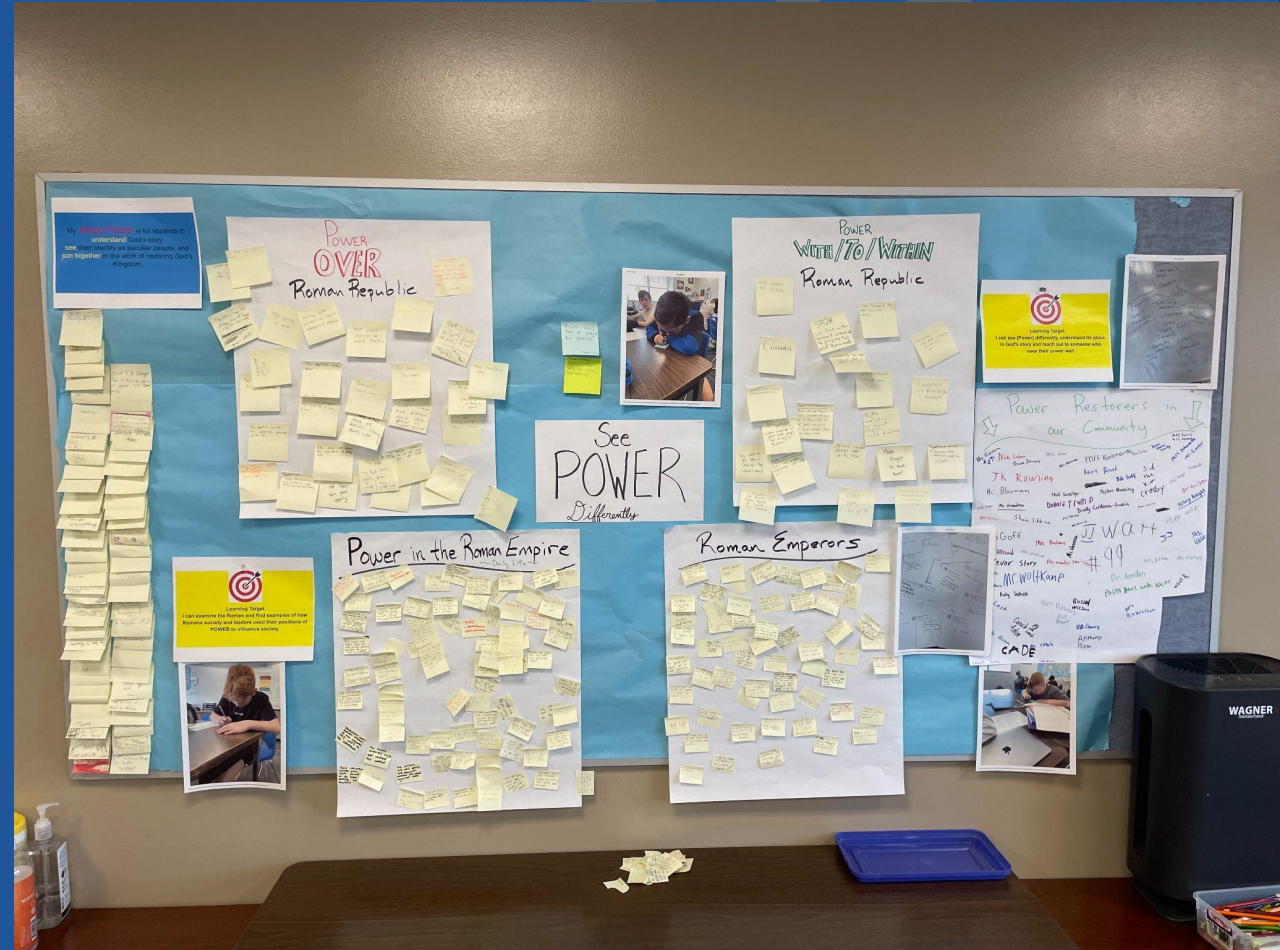
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Storyline:

See [Power] Differently

6th grade students have been challenged to “see differently” this year. They’ve been given opportunities to curiously explore different ways of thinking about a variety of subjects.

The ancient Romans are synonymous with power. Our goal was to explore how the Romans used their power in their society, government, and leadership.





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Throughlines:

Community Builders

I can uplift people in our community who are using their power well by writing letters of gratitude and encouragement.

Servant Leader

I can honor the influence and leadership of peculiar people in our community.

COMMUNITY BUILDER

Being a Community Builder means doing life with other people in a way that reflects God's desire for me to love my neighbor.



How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

PSALM 133:1

SERVANT LEADER

Being a Servant-Leader means leveraging the influence and opportunities God has given me to lead others in a way that draws them towards the love of Christ.



So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

EPHESIANS 4:11-12



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Formational Learning Experience:

Real needs: encouragement and acknowledgement of persons in our community who use their power in God-honoring ways.

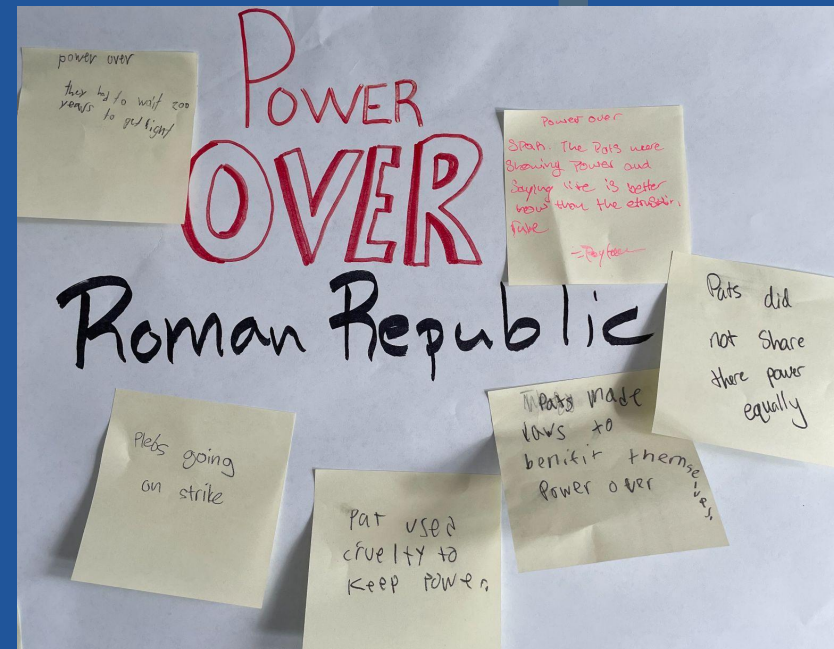
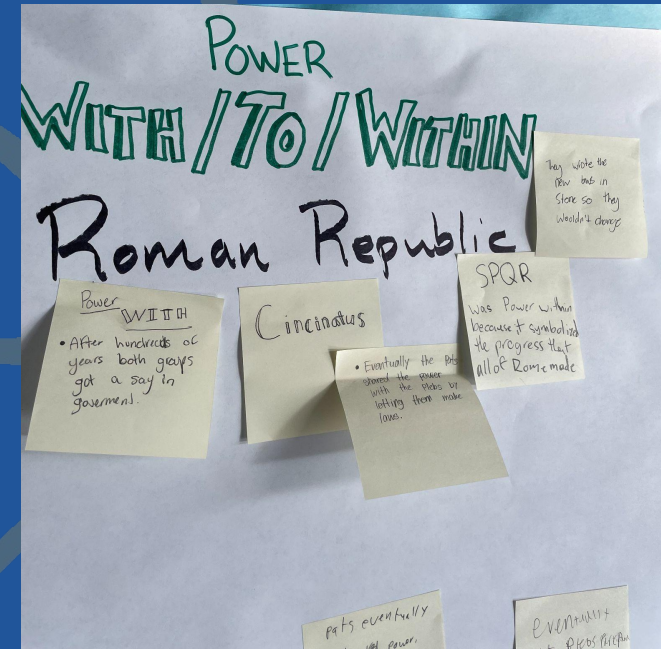
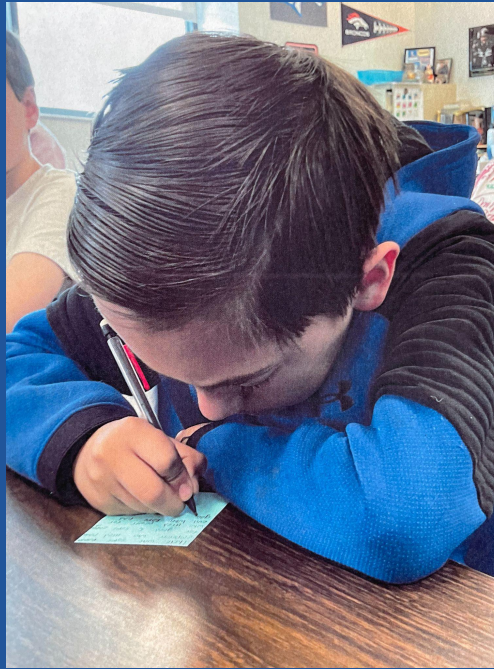
Real people: People with positions of power and influence.

Real work: Writing letters of gratitude and encouragement



INVITE

- We explored the word 'power' from different angles...
 - Asking students to think about times when they've experienced something powerful
 - Asking students to think about a time when they've felt powerless.
- Definition of Power
 - Power Over, Power With, Power To. (from Brene' Brown)
 - Mystery Quote Protocol with Power Quotes



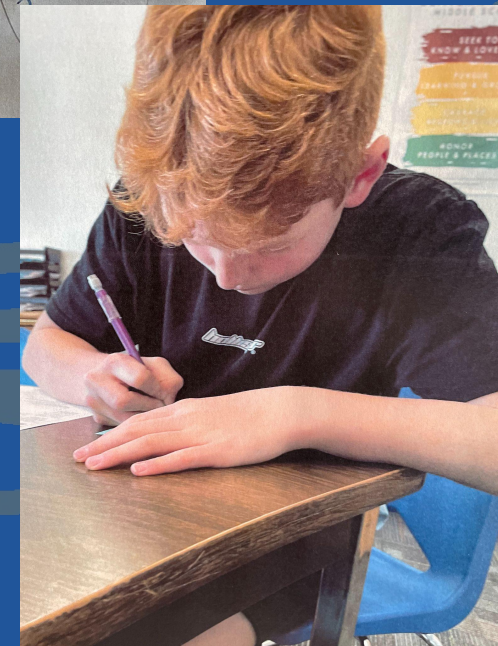
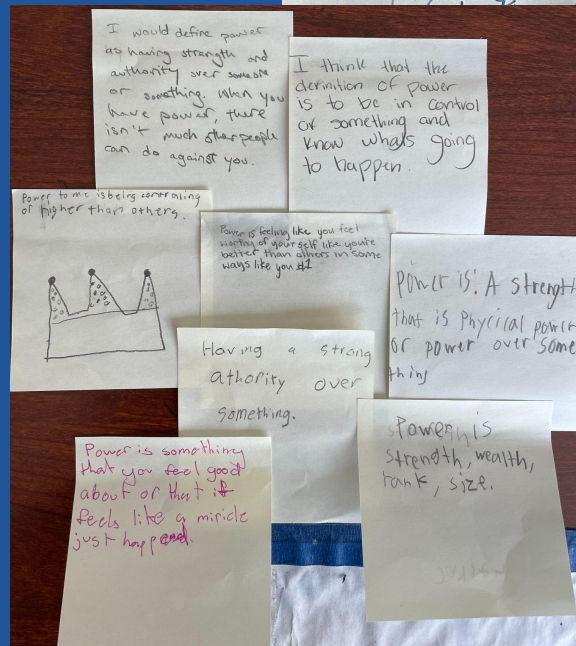
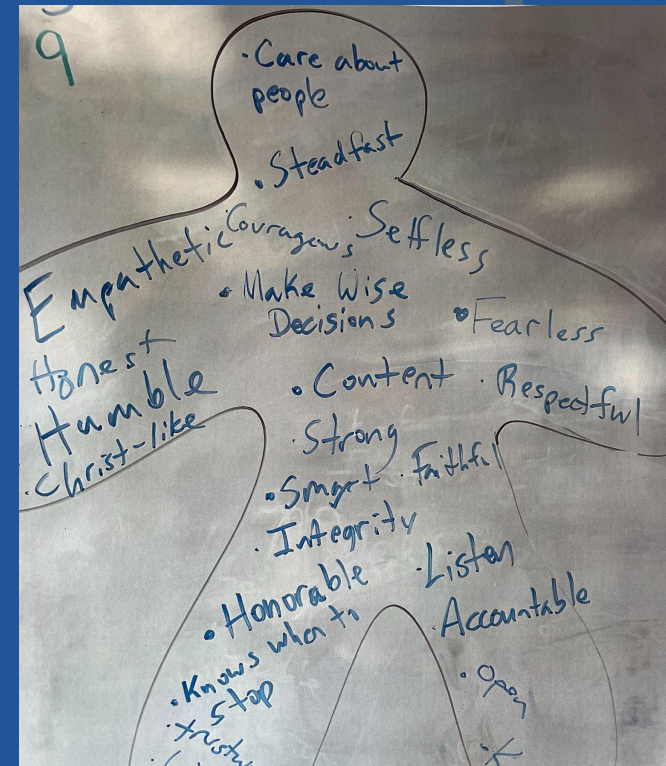


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NURTURE

We looked to the example of Jesus and studied several stories where Jesus used his power well.

Then students did a think/pair/share in order to build the profile of a great leader, a peculiar powerful person.





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EMPOWER

- Writing Letters
 - Started with a template
 - Tuning Protocol
 - Wrote the 'final draft'
 - Addressed the letters and sent them off
- Sharing Circle
 - Students shared who they wrote their letters to and told their classmates about how that person used their power in a peculiar way.





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Student Reflections: What have you learned about power?

“Power is a tool God gave us humans. We can use that tool with love and care, or with hate and jealousy.”

“Power is not just bad or good--it’s how you make it bad or good. If you use power like Jesus did, that will have a good outcome. Power can be connected to lots of different things, but it can bring all together or drive people apart.”

“When Rome had good leaders, Rome would prosper. The good emperors had empathy for the poor and just cared for others.”



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More...

Student Reflections: What have you learned about power?

“ I have learned that the way you use power has an enormous impact. I have also learned what it means to use power well--to be honest , to do what is right, and to be aware of the people around you.”

“Good leaders share power with others, are selfless and listen to the ideas of others. They are encouraging and take responsibility for their actions.”

“A person should use their power to always seeks the best interest of others.”



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Teacher Reflections:

Part of my deep hope is for students to recognize peculiarity and participate in kingdom work. Frankly, there are so many ways power is abused in our world today. My hope is that students will be able to discern how power is being used in the world around them--both positively and negatively. This FLEx invites students to identify someone who uses their position of power and influence in a peculiar way.

It would be wonderful if this activity could plant a seed in the students for what kinds of leaders they want to be as they grow older and take on more responsibility. I hope they can also evaluate power with a different lens.



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